

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2009

William Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

James Walke
Acting Assistant Administrator
FEMA Disaster Assistance Directorate
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate and Acting Assistant Administrator Walke:

As congressional representatives of river communities, we write to you today with our concerns about the FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy on Rehabilitation Assistance for Levees and other Flood Control Works (FEMA Policy Number 9524.3) issued on February 25, 2009.

As you know, levee and drainage districts affected by flooding rely on FEMA to provide financial support for expenses incurred for flood fighting, flood cleanup, debris removal, and dewatering. However, new FEMA policy shifts this responsibility to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

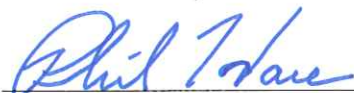
While FEMA has consistently reimbursed the costs for flood fighting and cleanup, dewatering and debris removal for flood control works, the Corps is not authorized to reimburse levee and drainage districts for many critical cleanup and recovery activities. In addition, the Corps does not have sufficient funding to cover the reimbursement costs associated with such operations.

We strongly believe that FEMA should continue assisting levee and drainage districts with flood fighting and recovery costs until the policy is reviewed to avoid potential gaps in disaster assistance.

Without prompt and comprehensive revision of FEMA Policy Number 9524.3 the flood control projects participating in Corps of Engineers or NRCS programs are vulnerable during peak flooding season while many are still recovering from the flood events of 2008.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



PHIL HARE
Member of Congress



DEBORAH L. HALVORSON
Member of Congress



AARON SCHOCK
Member of Congress



BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



JERRY F. COSTELLO
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



BRUCE BRALEY
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



W. TODD AKIN
Member of Congress

Cc: Janet M. Odeshoo, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region V
Arthur Freeman, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region VII